

Sustainable Water Management Initiative Go with the Flow Workgroup



Presentation Title: An Introduction to the
Green Communities Program

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Green Communities

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

*Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor
Ian A. Bowles, Secretary
Phil Giudice, Commissioner*

**GREEN COMMUNITIES
GRANT PROGRAM**

Mark Sylvia

*Director
Green Communities Division*

*Go With the Flow
Subcommittee Meeting*

November 23, 2010

HOW IT ALL BEGAN.....

- **Governor Patrick signed into law the Green Communities Act in July, 2008**
 - **MGL c. 25A, §10(a)** established a Green Communities Division to assist municipalities and other local governmental bodies to meet their energy goals
 - **§10(b) through (e)** established the Green Communities Grant Program (including funding sources and five criteria)



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Green Communities Division

Serves as the hub for all Massachusetts cities and towns on energy matters



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Green Communities Division Programs & Resources for Municipalities

- Green Communities Grant and Planning Assistance Program
- MassEnergyInsight System
- Municipal Energy Efficiency Program
- Energy Performance Contracting Technical Assistance
- ARRA Stimulus Funding
- Website filled with tools & resources for municipalities:

www.mass.gov/energy/greencommunities

- Email updates via listserv – Sign up today by send an email to:

[join-ene-greencommunities @listserv.state.ma.us](mailto:join-ene-greencommunities@listserv.state.ma.us)



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Green Communities Funding

- GCA authorizes annual funding up to \$10,000,000 annually for the grant program
 - 100% of the funding comes from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)
 - *FY 2011 Budget*
 - 80%: Green Communities Grants (\$8,100,000)*
 - 20%: Planning Assistance, MEI, Staff, Supplies, IT
 - STAFF
 - 4 Regional Coordinators located in each DEP Regional Office
 - 4 Program Coordinators (Municipal Efficiency, EMS, Programs)
 - Director, Dep Director, Grant Admin, CE Fellows, GC contracts
- *Funded based on quarterly RGGI auction results



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GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM



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GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Qualification Criteria - Designation

1. Adopt as-of-right siting for RE/AE generation, R&D, or manufacturing
2. Adopt expedited permitting process
3. Create an Energy Reduction Plan to reduce energy use by 20% in 5 years
4. Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles
5. Adopt Stretch Code or minimize life cycle cost

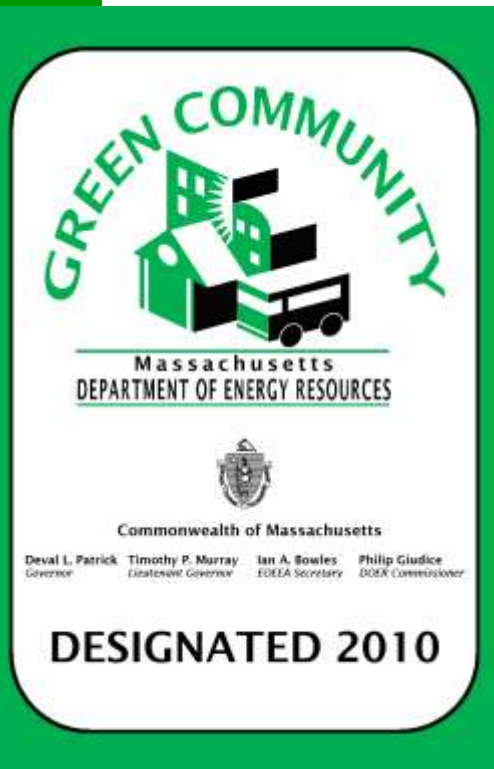
Grant Funding

1. Energy Efficiency Projects (design – construction)
2. Renewable Energy Projects

Green Communities Act, M.G.L. Ch. 25A §10

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PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT



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Program Development

- **Built the Division**
- **Conducted a survey**
 - Received comments from 100 + communities on where they are in meeting the five criteria
- **Planning Assistance as a result**
 - Selected consultants to provide up to 100 hrs of assistance – 105 Communities received assistance in FY10, 42 in FY11
- **Public comment**
 - Finalized guidance based on feedback from public in alignment with GCA criteria



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Program Development

- **Outreach to Communities**
 - Green Communities staff interacted with municipalities as well as MMA, MCAN, ICLEI and other stakeholders to solicit feedback on program
- **Design based on how local governments function**
 - Example: Designation deadline set to accommodate annual town meeting schedules
- **Interacted regularly with Planning Assistance Consultants**



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Program Development

- **Green Communities Tool kit**

- Developed easy to use guidance on each of the five criteria and posted it via the GC website

- **Used Technology as a tool**

- Set up a listserv to distribute updated on the grant program
- Hosted webinars on the program and application process



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Program Launch

- Governor Launched two part GC process in Jan 2010 at the MMA Conference
 - Designation (due May, 2010)
 - Grants (due June, 2010)
- Included a Pre-consultation phase
 - Reviewed application materials prior to due date
- Provided grant amounts in advance of grant application deadline
- FY 11 consists of two designation and grant rounds

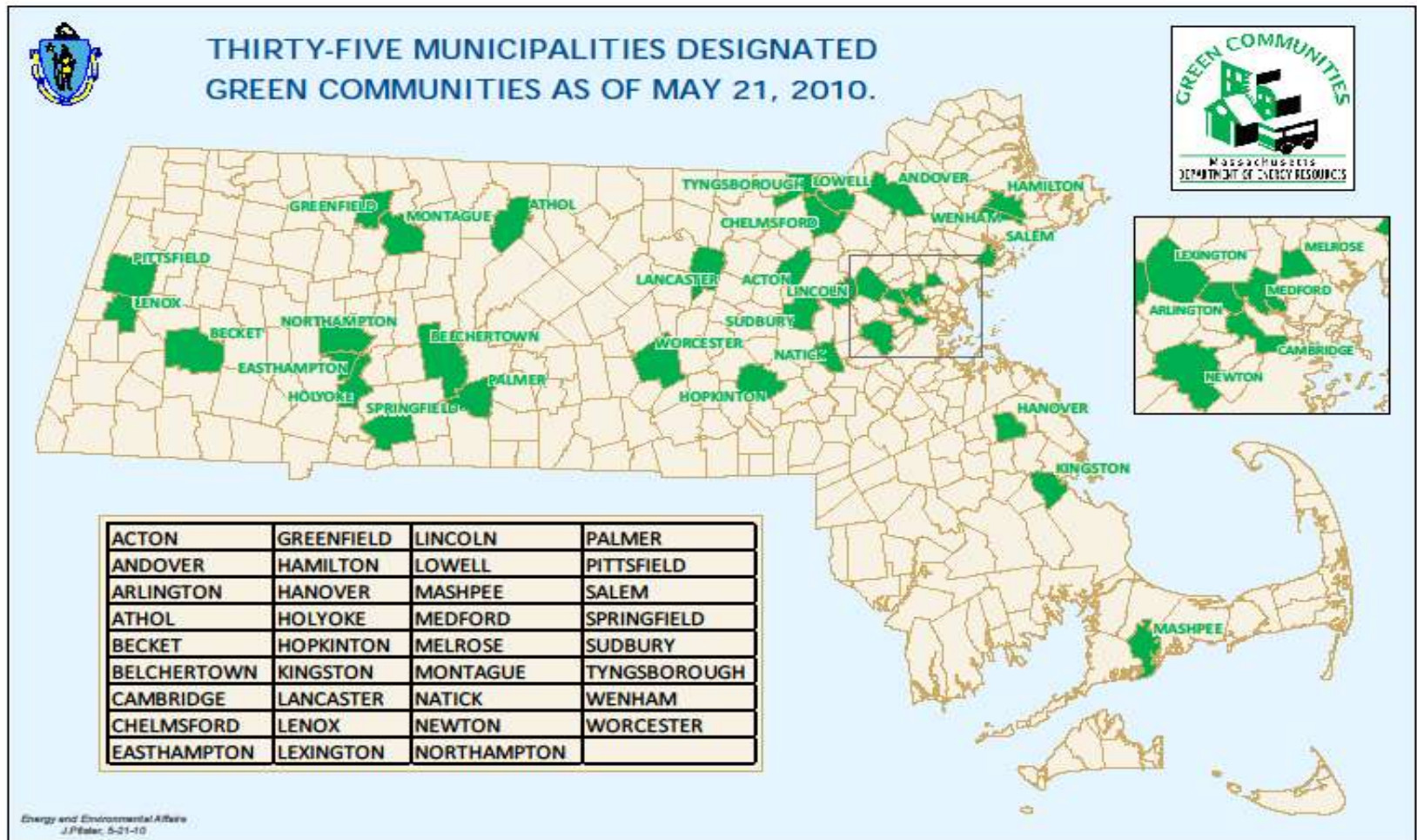


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DESIGNATED GREEN COMMUNITIES



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FY2010 GREEN COMMUNITIES

- 35 Green Communities
 - Population ranges from Becket (1,800) to Worcester (182,000)
 - Distributed across state
- Ten communities enacted as-of right zoning for renewable generation
 - Nine provide for ground mounted PV of 250 kW
 - Wenham and Kingston provide for wind of 600 kW
- 30 of 35 designees received planning assistance
- All 35 communities adopted the Stretch Code
- Grants were allocated by a population/per capita income formula.
- Total MMBTu Reduction– 821,759, which is 6,355 households.



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FY2010 GREEN COMMUNITIES

- *Grant Distribution*
 - \$8,100,000 distributed based on formula
 - Base amount: \$125,000
 - Renewable Generation adder: \$10,000
 - Allocation based on per capita inc / population formula
 - Capped at \$1,000,000
 - Grant awards ranged from:
 - \$134,766 – Town of Lancaster
 - \$988,102 – City of Springfield

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GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Round 2

1. \$4,000,000 Available in grant funds
2. Twenty Communities have applied for designation
3. Grant applications will be accepted beginning December 17, 2010

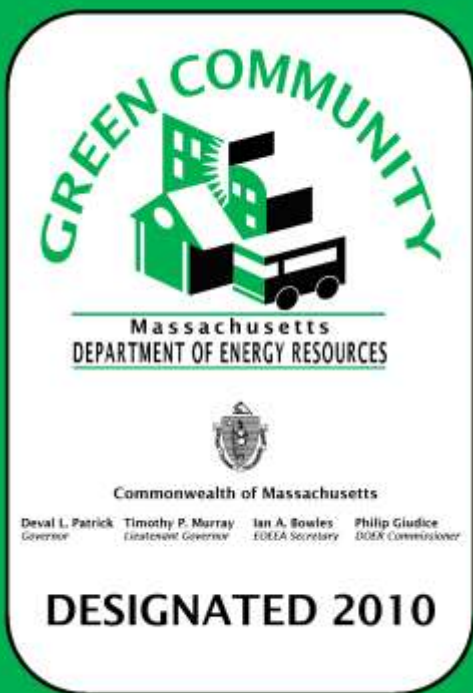
Round 3

Process will be announced in Winter 2011
– anticipate \$4,000,000 in grants

Green Communities Act, M.G.L. Ch. 25A §10

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Observations

- Unique program – Filled a need
- Grant based programs are good motivators
- State and federal government policies/funding provide clear objectives, tools to implementation
 - Green Communities Act
 - Program established by statute
 - Increased efficiency and renewable opportunities
 - Energy stimulus funding
- Outreach, planning assistance and guidance were critical



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Observations

- Important to engage communities and stakeholders in the process
- Be clear about funding guidelines
- Annual vs. semi-annual grant rounds



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